

## The King is Host

How Guests Are Entertained at Windsor.

King Edward is an enthusiastic host, and never feels more at home than when, surrounded by guests in the Oak Room at Windsor Castle, with his glass uplifted, he drinks to a toast proposed either by himself or his friends. Cabinet Ministers, private friends, a few naval and military men of the highest rank, with some two or three members of the royal family, usually make up the brilliant company.

This is how guests who have received the honor of a "dine and sleep" invitation from the King are entertained at Windsor Castle. On arriving at the visitors' entrance they are conducted to their various rooms, and, unless they have a friend among the household-in-waiting, or are immediately sent for by his Majesty, there is an interval of two hours before it is time to dress for dinner. The invitation, which is officially issued by one of the royal secretaries, is to "dine with the King and to spend the night at Windsor Castle," and the guests are expected to assemble in the corridor at half-past 8, in full evening dress, which is indispensable.

At a quarter to 9 the King and Queen and those members of the royal family who are in residence at the castle enter the corridor, bow to the company assembled and proceed at once into the Oak Room, where unless the guests exceed twenty in number, dinner is always served. The Oak Room adjoins the corridor and looks out on the famous Quadrangle. One side is hung with the gorgeous Gobelin tapestry presented to the late Queen Victoria by Louise Philippe, and a monster sideboard laden with magnificent plate is a prominent feature.

Dinner lasts about two hours, and besides the servants who wait, clerks of the kitchen and cellarmen, all in their full dress, are also in the room. The meal consists of several elaborate courses, and the wines are of unsurpassable excellence. Champagne, claret and Madeira are usually on the table, and Rhine Wine of which the King has a splendid stock is often produced.

When everybody has finished the Queen rises from the table, and with her depart the ladies of the company to change their gowns for the social portion of the evening. The men remain seated with the King for a time, and often indulge in a few short and light speeches as the toasts are proposed. Of these His Majesty is particularly fond, warmly participating in the fun and laughing heartily at some of the jokes. After a short while the ladies reassemble in the corridor with the men, and this opportunity is taken by their Majesties to shake hands and speak a few words to each of their guests. Having gone round the circle, the King and Queen retire, and the company adjourns to one of the drawing rooms to spend the remainder of the evening with music and bridge.

Should the programme include a theatrical performance, the guests receive a personal invitation from his Majesty to witness the play, and they should be in their places by 11 o'clock, their Majesties entering about half an hour later. For those who do not care to attend there is an excellent billiard room in the castle, and a comfortable smoking room, while those who wish can retire as early as they please. The King and Queen go to bed about 12:30 o'clock.

Those guests who wish to be called early, or desire a warm bath in the morning, leave word with one of the servants overnight. The royal horses and motor cars are placed at the disposal of the company for early

morning drives. Breakfast is served in the guests' own rooms or at one of the household tables, and the visitors, after taking leave of their hosts, usually return to London by the 10:30 o'clock train.—Tit-Bits.

### MODERN BURIAL CASKETS.

Only 10 Per Cent. of the Dead Buried Nowadays in the Old Time Coffin.

An elaborate burial casket lately made in this city was lined with silk and covered with silk plush, both lining and covering being of a delicate peachbloom pink. At least one such casket has been covered with plush of a Nile green; and plush covered caskets are made in blue, white, black, gray and purple, purple being the color most often used. Made of the finest materials, such caskets are expensive, ranging in price from \$900 to \$1,700.

While caskets such as these might excite wonder, yet burial caskets of one sort and another have now come into such general use that throughout a great part of the country probably not more than 10 per cent. of those who die are buried in coffins. With this change has come a great change in burial customs.

The old time coffin was made in one anciently familiar style. It might be made of whitewood or oak or mahogany, and it might be expensively trimmed, but it was still a coffin; and by the cabinet-maker or the undertaker all coffins were made. The modern burial casket is made in hundreds of styles and its manufacture is a business by itself.

Burial caskets of the least expensive sorts, of whitewood stained in imitation of oak or mahogany, may be bought at a cost not much greater than that of a coffin; and a cloth covered casket may now be had as low as \$40. The great majority are those ranging in price up to about \$100, and the greatest demand is for caskets black cloth covered.

There are burial caskets covered with embossed velvet; and metallic caskets of aluminum and bronze, burial caskets of bronze costing from \$1,100 to \$1,800; and there are many caskets, some in great simplicity of design and others richly covered, made in various fine woods.

Here is a massive burial casket of teakwood, its cost \$1,000. Here is a casket of dark red mahogany finished with marqueterie work, the inlay being of sycamore, the price being \$900. Here is a casket made of what is called vermillion wood, of a deeper hue than even the darkest red mahogany and having a beautiful grain, and here is a simple and beautiful casket of white mahogany, this costing \$650.

Burial caskets made of the silver maple are very beautiful. Of this natural color the maple would be very light, almost white, but to be used for this purpose it is so treated as to make it gray, and this not on the surface alone but all through. It is a wood with beautiful natural markings, and the beautifully marked gray wood is finished in the made up casket with a dull smooth polish. From \$500 to \$800 the silver maple caskets cost; more of them are sold in Philadelphia than in any other city.

American burial caskets in considerable numbers are now exported to various foreign countries, including the West Indies and South America and England, South Africa and Australia.

### VATICAN BY ELECTRIC LIGHT.

Beauty of Borgia Rooms Revealed By Modern Illumination.

"Have you seen the frescoes in the Borgia apartment by electric light?" is the question of the moment in the Eternal City.

Those who have answered it in the negative, says the Rosary Magazine, hasten to repair the omission and find that the reality surpasses their expectations—which though usual in fiction is rare in fact.

They were always worthy of admiration—these richly decorated, lofty rooms, where the events and episodes of a long buried past clamor for remembrance—but it has been reserved for the finger of modernity to bring to light some of their hitherto unrevealed beauties.

In the daytime, by reason of their aspect, it is somewhat difficult to realize their exquisite coloring, but at night the clear yet subdued radiance of electric lamps shines down upon the matchless tints of Pinturicchio's frescoes, and it is then especially that the Borgia atmosphere becomes a thing to be felt.

The Borgia apartment, adorned by the celebrated Umbrian painter for Alexander VI., is situated on the first floor of the Vatican palace under the stanze of Raphael. Julius II. was their next occupant, but he deserted them and for 400 years they remained untenanted.

In 1816 they were again taken into use as a picture gallery, but subsequently, owing to the scarcity of light, the paintings placed there were removed and the rooms were converted into a somewhat miscellaneous sort of museum and library. Their restoration was begun by the late pontiff, Leo XIII., in 1891.

One enters first the Hall of Pontiffs, then passes to the Hall of Miracles, hung with splendid tapestries and richly decorated by Pinturicchio himself. Beyond the Hall of Miracles is the Hall of Saints, the best preserved and most beautiful room of the series. Here Pinturicchio is at his best, the "Dispute of St. Catherine before Maximian" being considered by many the artist's masterpiece.

Next is the Hall of Science and Art, with splendid allegorical paintings by Pinturicchio. There are two withdrawing rooms beyond, but these were decorated by later and less able artists. It is in the Hall of Science and Art that the present occupant of the Borgia apartment, Cardinal Merry del Val, Secretary of State to Pius X., receives his visitors. He uses the adjoining Torre Borgia as a study.

### A BOOBY HUT.

Lone Survival of an Old Yankee Fashion in Sleighs Goes to a Museum.

A booby hut sleigh, so-called in the days when Yankees considered it effeminate for a man to ride in a covered carriage, has just been presented to the Ellsworth House, the home of the Connecticut Daughters of the American Revolution. The sleigh which is said to be considerably over a hundred years old, was for many generations the property of the Alsop family of Middletown, Conn., and so far as is known is the only one of its kind in existence in New England.

It is a covered sleigh, with a cab like that of the modern automobile, and the driver's seat in front behind a high dash-board. Heavy straps in front and back are used to suspend the cab.

The sleigh is built of heavy oak with iron re-enforcements. The runners, which are about three inches wide, end abruptly near the rear of the cab. The interior of the cab is upholstered with a fabric of white with a blue figure. In the back of the cab, near the top, is a window with an adjustable shade.—Windsor (Conn.) correspondence of the New York Sun.

A Broadway woman insists on evenly-divided chicken liver for her two jealous dogs. It's a safe bet, to the New York Commercial that, she has never prepared lunch for a half-dozen hungry school children just home for lunch.

A Brooklyn judge has sentenced three habitual criminals to terms of forty-one years each. That will give them time to change their habits, comments the Boston Transcript.

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